

The Process of Becoming Fruitful

John 15:1-11

During his time in the upper room with his disciples (John 13-17), Jesus addresses many topics. He models servanthood by washing the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). Jesus encourages them to love one another (John 13:18-35). He tells Peter that he will deny him before the night is through (John 13:36-38). Jesus explains that there are many rooms in heaven, but only one way to get there (John 14:1-11). He points out the characteristics of those who truly believe (John 14:12-31). Jesus also describes what God the Father does to produce fruit in those who truly believe (John 15:1-11).

Jesus is the vine who produces fruit in those who are connected to him.

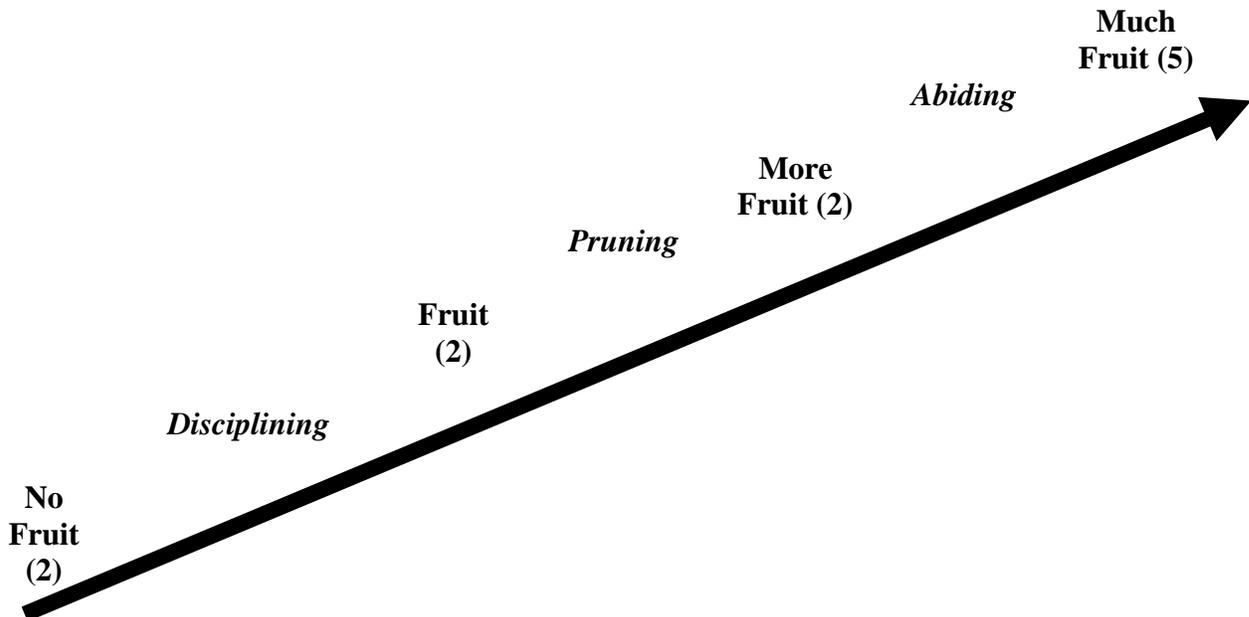
➤ **God's desire is for all believers to be fruitful (1-6)**

God takes responsibility for developing fruit in our lives.

Fruit bearing is a process that involves a progression of growth.

There are four levels of fruitfulness.

God uses three methods to move us to the next level.



A vital connection with Christ is required in order to bear fruit.

Abiding/remaining is a reciprocal relationship.

ISSUE	DISCIPLINING	PRUNING
<i>How do you know it's happening?</i>	Pain	Pain
<i>Why is it happening?</i>	You're doing something wrong	You're doing something right
<i>What is your level of fruitfulness?</i>	No fruit	Fruit
<i>What is the vinedresser's desire</i>	Fruit	More fruit
<i>What needs to go?</i>	Sin	Self
<i>How should you feel?</i>	Guilty, sad	Relief, trust
<i>What is the right response?</i>	Repentance (stop your sinning)	Release (give God your permission)
<i>When does it stop?</i>	When we stop sinning	When God is finished

Chart is taken from *Secrets of the Vine*, by Bruce Wilkinson. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2001, p. 66.

➤ **The results of a fruitful life (7-11)**

When we are fruitful, we will:

Pray with confidence (7)

Prove we follow Christ (8)

Be confident of God's love (9)

Live in obedience (10)

Live joy-filled lives (11)

We must stay connected to Christ to become more fruitful.

Let God do his work in you to make you more fruitful.